

Phillips, a devoted educator

CURTIS WILLIAMS &
JILL ZINGARELLI
EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS

This year marks the retirement of a long time member of the Shrewsbury Middle School community. Our interim Assistant Principal Margaret Phillips will be ending her educational career of thirty-five years.

Margaret Phillips was born and raised in Worcester. She attended public kindergarten in Worcester and spent 1st grade through her senior year of high school at St. Stephen's School. She then attended Emmanuel College, an all women's school in Boston, and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Psychology/Education. She was not sure whether to become a social worker or pursue a career in education, but had known that she wanted to work with children.

She began her teaching career in 1959, and taught a sixth grade class at Elizabeth Street School in Worcester.

Margaret then went on to Worcester State College to receive a Master's of Education in Guidance and Counseling and began her career as a guidance counselor. She started at Burncoat Jr. High and moved onto Classical High which later became Doherty High. There she took a position as a high school guidance counselor.

In 1968, she stopped working to raise her three children; David, John, and Sharon. In 1976 she returned to guidance counseling. When asked if the transition was hard from stay-at-home-mother, back to counseling, she said it was not. She recalled that there were a lot of new rules and regulations but her husband David, being a teacher, had kept her informed of all the changes. She worked in the Worcester Schools for six more years before coming to the Shrewsbury School System.

In 1982, Mrs. Phillips began her teaching career at Shrewsbury as the school psychologist at Spring Street Elementary School. She stayed at Spring Street for five more years before she came to the Shrewsbury Middle School in 1987. She continued as school psychologist at SMS and also took on the role of coordinator of Special Education Services.

For the 1996-1997 school year, Mr.



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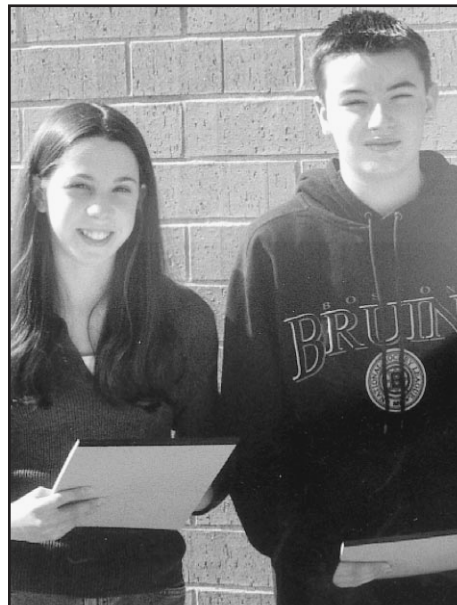
Above, Justin Chambers, Peg Phillips, Rikki Hullinger and Aaron Wall take a break from classes.

Right, Jill Zingarelli and Curtis Williams go over their draft article.

Hochstein and Ms. Barry shared the position of principal while the school looked for a new principal. During this time, Mrs. Phillips took the position of acting assistant principal. At the beginning of the 1997-1998 school year she returned to school psychologist up until this year when she again became interim vice principal while the search for a permanent assistant principal took place.

As any educator eager to begin a year of new challenges, Mrs. Phillips has set certain goals for this eighth grade class. Her priority for this year, as she says, was to create a positive environment for students to learn. However, one thing she was very nervous about was having to service 402 students eating in one cafeteria. But beside the few times the students had to be seated in arranged settings due to misconduct, Mrs. Phillips would agree this year has run as smoothly as possible.

When asked what position she has enjoyed the most, she responded that she loves them all and believes it is important to experience different things. She feels she is at the point in her life where she needs to settle down and spend time with her family and friends. Mrs. Phillips plans to spend a good deal of her free time with her three grandchildren; Alexandra who is



five years old, Sydney, three and a half, and Claire, 15 months. She is excited to know that she will have time to do things that she enjoys. Her top priority is to go visit her son David at his new house in Florida. She also speaks of travel to Europe, and perhaps catching up on the piles of reading she has not had time for. Even though she is retiring, she expressed concern about missing education and working with young people.

They say that if a teacher impacts one child, he or she is a success. Mrs. Phillips has surely touched hundreds of kids in her time. She is a hardworking woman, who has dedicated her life to the education and care of children. We wish her much luck and happiness in all her future endeavors and thank her for her guidance and wisdom.

Eighth grade at the high school

STEPHANIE AGUGOL
& JUSTIN CHAMBERS
EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS

This eighth grade year has been one like no other. We feel honored and privileged to attend our eighth grade year at the new Shrewsbury High School. This is our introduction for the next four years.

This year we have had to adapt to growing up. We have been faced with many challenges, not only school-related issues but also peer pressure, wanting to be accepted, yet at times wanting to be independent. Peer pressure is always on our minds; we constantly try to be "cool" enough to fit into a certain clique. Sometimes we compromise our beliefs to be cool, yet at times we would rather be independent and by ourselves.

The teachers throughout our Middle School career had a deep impact on our lives. From the first day of sixth grade, our teachers have opened our eyes to new experiences. They never neglected us, and when we needed help they were always there. Every single teacher in the Shrewsbury Public School system has taught us the ways to have a successful life. At times we do not value our teachers because they might be harder than we would like, but in reality they prepare us for the next year.

We are thankful for everything the town of Shrewsbury has provided for the schools such as caring teachers and aides, a gymnasium, computers, television, and nice classrooms.

The transition of moving from the Middle School to the High School has been an experience. Here at the High School we have more opportunities, such as the entire eighth-grade eating together, being able to carry our backpacks around, and getting treated more like adults.

Change provides a different perspective of life and learning opportunities. We enjoy having a television in every room, a computer lab in our wing, a well-equipped field house, and the commons. The transitions have been fun and we are taking it day by day.

Our Middle School memories will stay with us forever. We are excited that we will soon be high school students but we feel a sense of sadness that we will be leaving our Shrewsbury Middle School years behind. We know that high school will be an unforgettable experience. We are looking forward to it because we will be treated more like adults. Good-bye, Middle School, hello High School.



PHOTO BY DAWNA ALPHONSE

Eighth graders Stephanie Agugol, above, and Justin Chambers, top left, share their eighth grade experience at the High school.

Paton welcomes new principal

THOMAS M. KENNEDY
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Jayne Wilkin, the current Assistant Director of Special Education in the district and former school psychologist at both Coolidge School and Paton School, has been appointed the new principal of Paton School. She succeeds Linda Ferguson who has served as principal for the past two years.

Ms. Wilkin received her bachelor's degree from Clark University in Worcester. She holds a master's degree from Assumption College in Counseling Psychology as well as a master's degree from Fitchburg College in Educational Leadership and Administration. Ms. Wilkin has worked for the Shrewsbury Public Schools for the past nineteen years. Prior to being appointed to her current role in the special education department in 2001, she served the district for seventeen years as a school psychologist, including eleven years at Coolidge School and six years at Paton.

In discussing her new role Ms. Wilkin indicated her experience as



PHOTO BY DAWNA ALPHONSE

Jane Wilkin, Paton School Principal appointee

assistant special education director has "allowed me to have a 'big picture' view of the school district, as well as being engaged in personnel selection, staff supervision and evaluation, serving as an instructional leader in special education, along with planning and providing professional develop-

ment for staff." Ms. Wilkin is no stranger to the Paton Community as she served as school psychologist from 1995-2001. In commenting upon how Paton is a good match for her skills and abilities, Ms. Wilkin indicated: "Paton has a strong sense of community in terms of the students, the faculty, and the families. I treasure this because I think most things in life are accomplished through the relationships we have with others—families, friends, and colleagues. I think existing knowledge of the school's programs and needs have allowed me to begin thinking and planning for the opening of school next fall. I believe that life long learning is important, and that being respectful and caring are critical qualities that I aspire to. These goals are consistent with the mission of Paton School."

Although Ms. Wilkin officially starts her position on July 1 she has been involved with the Paton community on an ongoing basis since her appointment. Jayne indicates she has been meeting on a weekly basis with her current principal Linda Ferguson in order to facilitate a smooth transition for students, staff, and parents.